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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

v.

16 Cr. 371 (RA)

GARY HIRST, JOHN GALANIS, HUGH  
DUNKERLEY, MICHELLE MORTON,  
DEVON ARCHER, BEVAN COONEY,

Defendants.

Conference

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New York, N.Y.  
March 3, 2017  
12:15 p.m.

Before:

HON. RONNIE ABRAMS,

District Judge

APPEARANCES

PREET BHARARA

United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York

BY: BRIAN R. BLAIS, ESQ.

Assistant United States Attorney

SHER TREMONTE LLP

Attorneys for Defendant Gary Hirst

BY: MICHAEL TREMONTE, ESQ.

PELUSO & TOUGER

Attorneys for Defendant John Galanis

BY: DAVID TOUGER, ESQ.

JOSEPH A. GROB, P.C.

Attorneys for Defendant Hugh Dunkerley

BY: JOSEPH A. GROB, ESQ.

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APPEARANCES  
(Continued)

MORVILLO LLP

Attorneys for Defendant Michelle Morton

BY: GREGORY R. MORVILLO, ESQ.

EUGENE E. INGOGLIA, ESQ.

BOIES, SCHILLER & FLEXNER LLP

Attorneys for Defendant Devon Archer

BY: MATTHEW L. SCHWARTZ, ESQ.

DANIEL R. SCHWARTZ, ESQ.

PAULA J. NOTARI, ESQ.

Attorney for Defendant Bevan Cooney

O'NEILL AND HASSEN

Attorneys for Defendant Bevan Cooney

BY: ABRAHAM J. ABEGAZ-HASSEN, ESQ.

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1 (Case called)

2 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Counsel, please state your name for  
3 the record.

4 MR. BLAIS: Good afternoon, your Honor. Brian Blais  
5 for the government.

6 THE COURT: All right. Good afternoon.

7 MS. NOTARI: Good afternoon, your Honor. Paula Notari  
8 on behalf of Bevan Cooney, whose presence is waived.

9 THE COURT: Good morning.

10 MR. ABEGAZ-HASSEN: Abraham Hassen, also for Bevan  
11 Cooney.

12 THE COURT: Good morning.

13 MR. MORVILLO: Good afternoon, your Honor. Gregory  
14 Morvillo and Eugene Ingoglia on behalf of Michelle Morton, who  
15 is present.

16 THE COURT: All right. Good morning to all of you.

17 MR. TOUGER: David Touger, T-O-U-G-E-R, for John  
18 Galanis. I apologize to the Court for being late and to  
19 everybody here for making you wait.

20 MR. MATTHEW SCHWARTZ: Good afternoon. Matthew  
21 Schwartz and Daniel Schwartz, for Devon Archer, who is in court  
22 this afternoon.

23 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

24 MR. TREMONTE: Good afternoon, your Honor. Michael  
25 Tremonte for Gary Hirst, whose presence is waived.

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1 MR. GROB: Good afternoon, your Honor. Joseph Grob  
2 for Hugh Dunkerley, whose appearance is also waived.

3 THE COURT: Good morning to all of you.

4 Why don't I hear from the government as to the status.  
5 Is there any additional discovery at this point that you  
6 anticipate producing?

7 MR. BLAIS: At this point, no, your Honor. We've made  
8 a few additional small productions in the last several weeks.  
9 There's nothing substantial outstanding. It's possible that we  
10 may get additional subpoena productions from third parties, and  
11 we'll obviously produce those as we receive things, but nothing  
12 substantial that I recall being outstanding.

13 THE COURT: As I indicated at the last conference, I'd  
14 like to set a trial date today. I'll hear from defense counsel  
15 as to how long you think you need, and then we can coordinate  
16 schedules.

17 MR. MORVILLO: Good afternoon. Gregory Morvillo. We  
18 may be the last people into the case. We've been in for about  
19 three weeks, and we are starting to go through the discovery.  
20 And I think the technical term for the discovery is, there is a  
21 boatload of it, and so we are making our way through it. And  
22 we have conferred with others. We were thinking of a February  
23 trial date, in 2018.

24 THE COURT: Does the government have a position on the  
25 trial date?

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1 MR. BLAIS: I mean, in our view this case has been  
2 pending since May of last year. It was charged by complaint in  
3 May. It was indicted I think at the very end of May. February  
4 seems pretty far out at this point. I think we would prefer a  
5 date sooner than February, if that's possible.

6 THE COURT: All right. Let me just ask you, first of  
7 all, how long do you think the trial will last? I know it's  
8 dependent in part on how many individuals go to trial, but  
9 right now, what's your best guess?

10 MR. BLAIS: My best guess would be three weeks.

11 THE COURT: Is there any way you think you all can do  
12 it in the late fall, is that a possibility, or winter, prior to  
13 February?

14 MR. TOUGER: Your Honor, I have a trial in September  
15 that's going to last four to six weeks, so it would be hard to  
16 prepare this case and that case, and that's a pretty  
17 high-volume case also. So a February date would be fine with  
18 me.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Morvillo, any additional thoughts,  
20 given that we are just at the beginning of March?

21 MR. MORVILLO: Well, the problem is the amount of the  
22 discovery and a motion schedule. We had considered a motion,  
23 making motions at the end of September, and even backing into a  
24 trial at that point, with opposition, reply, and argument, I  
25 think the best we could do would be early December, but if

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1 we're in early December, with a three-week trial, we're never  
2 going to get a jury before Christmas. Everyone will be  
3 terrified that they'll miss Christmas. And so realistically,  
4 the best we could do is mid January. At that point, from my  
5 perspective, mid January, early February is not much of a  
6 difference, so I think we would prefer February, but, you know,  
7 if your Honor pushed us, we would move.

8 THE COURT: All right. Why don't we do this. Why  
9 don't we schedule it for February 5<sup>th</sup>. Is everyone available  
10 then? We will schedule it for February 5<sup>th</sup>. It will be a  
11 firm trial date. And I'll reserve the month. Okay?

12 MR. MORVILLO: Thank you, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: So now why don't we talk about a motion  
14 schedule. You had proposed September, is that right?

15 MR. MORVILLO: Yes, Judge.

16 THE COURT: Do you have a particular date in mind?  
17 Can you do it early-mid September?

18 Yes, Ms. Notari?

19 MS. NOTARI: Could we possibly do early October?  
20 Mr. Hassen will be on his honeymoon in September, and  
21 realistically, September is always the month where most of the  
22 lawyers -- it's the only time where you can ever really go on  
23 vacation where the courthouse kind of slows down, and we come  
24 back in September and it's a madhouse, and so if we could do  
25 early October.

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1 THE COURT: So why don't we have motions due  
2 October 2<sup>nd</sup>. And how long does the government need to  
3 respond?

4 MR. BLAIS: Three weeks, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: That's fine. So why don't we say  
6 October 23<sup>rd</sup> for an opposition. And we'll say October 30<sup>th</sup>  
7 for any reply.

8 Do any of you anticipate making a motion for which a  
9 hearing will be necessary, or is it too early to tell?

10 Mr. Schwartz?

11 MR. MATTHEW SCHWARTZ: Yes, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: All right. So why don't we schedule a  
13 hearing date in November.

14 Does November 20<sup>th</sup> work? Yes? Okay. So why don't  
15 we schedule November 20<sup>th</sup> for a hearing date at 10 a.m.

16 Is the government seeking to exclude time under the  
17 Speedy Trial Act?

18 MR. BLAIS: Yes. We would move to exclude time  
19 through the scheduled date of the trial, February 5, 2018.

20 THE COURT: All right. So is there any objection with  
21 respect to the speedy trial?

22 DEFENSE COUNSEL: No, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: All right. So I'll exclude time from  
24 today until February 5, 2018, pursuant to 18 United States Code  
25 Section 3161(h)(7)(A). I find that the ends of justice served

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1 by excluding such time outweigh the interests of the public and  
2 the defendants in a speedy trial because it will allow time for  
3 defense counsel and defendants to prepare for trial, for the  
4 parties to discuss any possible disposition of this case, and  
5 for the defendants to prepare any motions.

6 What I also would like to put on the books is a final  
7 pretrial conference the week prior to the trial. So why don't  
8 we do that now.

9 Why don't we say January 31<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m. And I'll  
10 set a schedule for pretrial submissions when we meet in  
11 November, but just in case it's helpful for your schedules, I  
12 anticipate that I'll ask that all of the pretrial submissions,  
13 including requests to charge, proposed voir dire, and any *in*  
14 *limine* motions, be submitted two weeks prior to the conference,  
15 so on January 17<sup>th</sup>, and any opposition on January 24<sup>th</sup>.  
16 All right? So why don't you in fact put that in your schedule  
17 as a date for pretrial submissions. If we need to change that  
18 closer to the date, we'll do that, but that's what I'd like to  
19 set.

20 Are there any additional issues anyone would like to  
21 raise today?

22 All right. Hearing nothing, we are adjourned. Thank  
23 you. Have a nice weekend, all.

24 ALL COUNSEL: Thank you, your Honor.

25 (Adjourned)